

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

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R 181128Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3145

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS JIDDA 8326

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SUMMARY - SAUDI EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

SUMMARY: DUE TO LIMITED PUBLICATION DURING HADJ HOLIDAYS THIS PAST WEEK, EDITORIAL COMMENT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST TO US WAS SPARSE. HOWEVER THERE WAS MENTION OF ROLE OF PLO IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT, A CLAIM OF FOREIGN PLOTS TO SUBVERT THE ARAB WORLD, AND SOME PRELIMINARY SPECULATION ON THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON ENERGY AND THE U.S. POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. ROLE OF PLO.

GHAZI AWADALLAH IN DECEMBER 13 UKAAZ DEMANDS THAT THE US RECOGNIZE THE PLO AS "ONE OF THE CONCERNED PARTIES" NECESSARY TO A SOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. ABDULLAH AL-BANAWI IN DECEMBER 17 AL-MADINA DAILY CLAIMS US FINALLY VOTED IN FAVOR OF PLO PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE "ONLY WHEN IT FELT ISOLATED IN THE UN."

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2. PARIS CONFERENCE ON ENERGY.

RIDA LARY IN DECMEBER 15 UKAAZ NOTES THAT CONFER-
ENCE WILL NOT ONLY DISCUSS ENERGY PROBLEMS BUT THE MORE
BASIC POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THIRD WORLD
STATES, THE ENERGY AND RAW MATERIAL PRODUCING NATIONS,
AND THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD WHICH CONSUMES THESE MATERIALS.
WRITER STATES THAT SAUDI POLICY HAS BEEN TO KEEP
OIL PRICES DOWN AND, AT SAME TIME, ATTEMPT TO FORCE
INDUSTRIAL NATIONS TO LOOK AT THE "TRILATERAL RELATION-
SHIP BETWEEN OIL PRICES, PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS, AND
PRICES OF FINISHED PRODUCTS" IN ORDER TO REVAMP THE
WORLD ECONOMIC STRUCTURE "INTO A SYSTEM THAT SERVES ALL
NATIONS."

LARY MAINTAINS THAT U.S. APPEARS UNWILLING TO
ADDRESS THIS CAUSE AND EFFECT TRIANGLE AND HAS
CONCENTRATED ONLY ON REDUCING THE PERCENTAGE OF
FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION WITHIN THE U.S. AND ON
DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY, IN THE
HOPE THAT THESE ACTIONS WILL END THE OIL-PRODUCING
COUNTRIES' CONTROL OVER THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY
WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. LARY CLAIMS US INTENT AT
THE APRIS CONFERENCE IS TO FORM A GOURP OF NON-
EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL STATES (SPECIFIC COUNTRES NOT
MENTIONED) WHICH WOULD PREVENT ANY REAPPROCHMENT
BETWEEN CONSUMER AND PRODUCER NATIONS AND INSURE
CONTINUATION OF US DOMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.
WRITER CONCLUDES WITH AN APPEAL TO FRANCE TO PREVENT
THIS BLOC FORMATION, TO FORCE THE DESIRED REAPPROACHMENT,
AND TO INSURE THAT LINKAGE BETWEEN PRICE LEVELS OF
OIL, RAW MATERIALS, AND FINISHED PRODUCTS IS
DISCUSSED.

3. CONSPIRACIES AGAINST THE ARAB WORLD.

RIDA LARY AGAIN IN DECEMBER 17 UKAAZ BELIEVES
CURRENT PROBLEMS IN LEBANON, BETWEEN EGYPT AND
SYRIA, AND OVER SPANISH SAHARA ARE RESULT OF FOREIGN
PLOT TO "WEAKEN THE ARABS AND DEPRIVE THEN OF THE
FRUITS OF THE RAMADAN WAR VICTORY." CLAIMS THE
CIA "WORKED SECRETLY TO DESTROY ARAB UNITY" WHILE
USG PUBLICLY SUPPORTED PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. ALSO
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ATTACKS SOVIET UNION FOR SHIPPING ARMS TO AFRICAN
MUSLIM COUNTRIES "TO DOMINATE THEM AND EXPLOIT THEIR
ECONOMIC POTENTIAL."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA08326
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750440-0304
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751229/aaaaayxd.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY SUMMARY - SAUDI EDITORIAL COMMENTARY SUMMARY: DUE TO LIMITED PUBLICATION DURING HADJ HOLIDAYS
TAGS: SOPN, SA
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006